

Mid-Atlantic Hydric Soils Committee Meeting
Wednesday, January 8 & Thursday, January 9, 2003
Ocean City, MD

A. Introduction: Wednesday, January 8

Present: Leander Brown (NRCS, MD), Kevin Bilash (EPA, PA), John Galbraith (VA Tech, VA), Martin Rabenhorst (U. of MD, MD), Ralph Spagnolo (EPA, PA), Ed Stein (NRCS, NY), Ronnie Taylor (NRCS, DE), Phil King (NRCS, DE), Jeff Thompson (MDE, MD), Lenore Vasilas (NRCS, MD), Bruce Vasilas (U. of DE, DE), Carl Robinette (NRCS, MD), Steve Carlisle (NRCS, NY), Mary Anne Thiesing (EPA, NY), Rick Hertges (Intrepid, WV), Phil Zurhelde (U. of MD, MD), Karen Castenson (U. of MD, MD), Skip Bell (NRCS, WV), Adam Whelchel (U. of DE, DE), Leyla Lange (Straughan Env't. Services, MD)

B. First order of business

Pass around the committee list for everyone to add updates and make corrections. During this time, there was a discussion on palm pilots. Marty was showing off with his and this prompted the conversation. Ralph has some coming, so people are to e-mail or tell Ralph if they want one. Marty or Jeff? - prepare a waterproof label to show the Interagency is using these for the public good.

C. Comments on any topic

Lenore emphasized that depth measurements must start at the muck or mineral surface except using those that specifically said not to - people were observed starting at the duff layer and creating problems. A quick overview was done by Phil on the trip to Assateague and the inner coastal dune soils.

D. Updates – Field Indicators Book

Lenore pointed out that the map needed to have the reference date changed. It was decided not to have the individual states listed for all NRCS employees. Students will assist more with the diagrams to ease John and Marty's burden. The indicators will be rearranged to follow the order of the national listing instead of alphabetical. Phil suggested that we put an arrow or something on the diagrams to show "start measurement here" point. Lenore will be listed as the contact prior to Wade, to have people send comments to the Mid-Atlantic committee first. Bruce will be getting back to us after he speaks with Carl because he found a spot where the "Keys that Lack" doesn't work. NTCHS has to be added after Chair on Wade as a contact because there was no reference listed. S6 comment "Stripped Matrices occur in M.A. but typically found below 6 in." to be added in place of asterisk comment. Other minor comments were discussed for A2 and S9 also. "Unless otherwise indicated" is to be repeated after all LRR's. John's volume proportion's, glossary inclusions, and possible inclusions were discussed. The volume proportions were to be changed to black over gray and added in a new section in the front of the book. Mary Anne will put sample photos on the website of volume proportions. We need to mention the website in the book somewhere. John's quick guide to the relation between field indicators and Corps' indicators will be made into tabular

form by Leyla and Kevin. We reviewed the graphic illustrations designed by Marty and John and comments were recorded and John or Marty will fix and resend the corrected illustrations to be put in book.

E. ABLS (Anomalous Bright Loamy Soils) update

Hydric soils that occur on coastal plains at low elevations near coastal marshes. Phil went over the analytical processes. He suggested to look at the data to find some indicator to define. F8, TF10 - nothing worked. Why was there high chroma in the upper part -looked for reasons to make another indicator to fit this. Concluded that the hypotheses Marty suggested were systematically destroyed. The next step will be for Phil to do a lab study and try to simulate field conditions. Mary did a quick powerpoint on the lab study and showed how they intend to take soil core samples by PVC pipe and set them up in various conditions in the lab and measure some of the properties.

F. Field Trip I

The purpose of this trip was to see one of the sites that Phil has been collecting data at for the ABLS study. The site was at Isle of Wight, MD. It was a good site for a field test because we were able to see well data provided by Phil and relate it to the field situation at the site. We were also shown the color propensity index equipment that Marty is promoting to use. We saw soil colors as well as jacket colors interpreted by the machine. In addition, Mary and Phil demonstrated their PVC pipe technique to bring a soil core back to the lab.

G. Thursday, January 9

Present: Leander Brown (NRCS, MD), Kevin Bilash (EPA, PA), John Galbraith (VA Tech, VA), Harold Jones (USACE,VA), Martin Rabenhorst (U. of MD, MD), Ralph Spagnolo (EPA, PA), Ed Stein (NRCS, NY), Ronnie Taylor (NRCS, DE), Phil King (NRCS,DE), Jeff Thompson (MDE, MD), Lenore Vasilas (NRCS, MD), Bruce Vasilas (U. of DE, DE), Carl Robinette (NRCS, MD), Steve Carlisle (NRCS, NY), Mary Anne Thiesing (EPA, NY), Rick Hertges (Intrepid, WV), Phil Zurhelde (U. of MD, MD), Karen Castenson (U. of MD, MD), Skip Bell (NRCS, WV), Adam Whelchel (U. of DE, DE), Leyla Lange (Straughan Env't. Services, MD)

Class dates: April 7-11	Basic Wetlands, Days Cove
April 28 - May 2	Basic Wetlands, NJ
May 12-16	Advanced Wetlands, Eastern Neck
July 7-11	Soils -?

H. NTCHS

On the agenda is to finalize the technical standard, change the Eh slope, change alpha alpha and Eh, and Alaska proposed changing the definition of growing season.

I. Updates – Hydric Soils Website

Marty is to send any new Pdf files for ABLS or any other studies for uploading to the website. Mary Anne discussed a field protocol with pictures and using a CD version. Pdf

of soil pedon description sheets like the one in the indicators book should be used. WE also conducted a quick review of Lenore's "Keys," and if there are revisions to be made send to Lenore.

J. Updates – Hydric Soils of Mid-Atlantic Book

Bruce passed around a sheet for the correct name and affiliations, so if you missed it, send him the info. Work is being done on trying to get the book English edited. Steve and others were concerned with that changing the meaning of the indicator. Marty will help Lenore with Excel graphs that are unopenable. Publishing will be spiral bound in black and white. A publisher is still needed. WE will try form NRCS to get a CD to put into the book as well as put a pdf on the web and have CD's to distribute. Lenore and Bruce confirmed that small changes were able to be made without back and forth e-mailing.

K. Piedmont HGM Research

This is a study of problematic soils in the Piedmont region. The sites are poor to somewhat poorly drained wetlands. The soils are dark and appear hydric, but the site doesn't have wetland hydrology. Karen over viewed the work she has been doing on the study and indicate the possible match of an indicator -F8, I think she said was the one that kept working.

L. Red Parent Material (TF2 Study)

The Mid-Atlantic Hydric Soils Committee is conducting this study. Questioned what to do with the data? Are people collecting data? Concluded we need this season and next and then we need to evaluate the data collected. What is needed is good descriptions and hydrologic data. Want 2 years data on all sites. Are we sticking with the plan to put some wells in Canaan Valley? We decided we should find some transect - Skip volunteered to take on the responsibilities. Ralph will check with Charlie Rhodes at EPA to see if he can get the wells that are sitting there because people have broken wells and need to be replaced and Skip will need wells also.

M. What next

Mentioned that a possible Glauconitic soil study should follow after ABLs and other studies are complete. Any ideas should be mentioned to discuss among the committee.

N. Hydrology Workshop

A hydrology workshop is being sponsored by Iffy Davis of the EPA and Frank Reilly, and is to be held in Atlantic City, Monday thru Thursday, October 27-30, 2003. Lenore is receiving many responses to the questionnaires, and the agenda should be pretty much complete because of this. Even so, if there are any hydrology people, students, contacts, etc., let Ralph know.

O. Other things

July 7-11	NE Pedology field trip
Oct 6-10	Plant ID, Eastern Neck
March	EPA Modules - basically how to develop biological indicators in wetlands
March 24-28	Presentations on 17 Modules by authors, AC, NJ

****Important**

EPA and the Corps are proposing new rule making on interpretation of how to regulate wetlands. There will be a 45 day notice. Inform everyone you know about this, secretively of course and send comments, comments, and comments.

P. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be on HGM and slope wetland studies. The next meeting will be held in Richmond, or if not around Blacksburg, John will work out the details and inform us all. Another possible place is Charlottesville, about 45 minutes west of Richmond. It was decided to keep the 2 day meeting format instead of going to 3. The dates will be Wednesday and Thursday, June 25-26, 2003. See you all there.